

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 remain in the application with claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 being amended. It is noted that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The references mentioned in the specification have been listed in the information disclosure statement enclosed herewith. The significance of the references is set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the application.

The claims have been amended to overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the Office action.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Hoffman. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected on Reitberger USP 5,549,390 and further in view of Hoffman USP 3,888,340. Claim 5 has been rejected based on Reitberger in view of Hoffman and further in view of Maffeis and further in view of Hess.

HOFFMAN USP 3,888,340

Hoffman is directed to a variable pitch tapeless format control system for line printers. This reference has nothing to do with the subject matter of the applicant's claims.

The rejection of claim 3 mentions “undercut grooves (48)” in Hoffman. At column 4 in Hoffman “48” is “a supporting and retaining base member. There is no mention of undercut grooves spaced from the toothing in the rack. The drawing in Hoffman do not illustrate any undercut grooves. It is difficult to understand how Hoffman would suggest to a person skilled in the art the arrangement set forth in claim 3 as amended.

REITBERGER USP 5,549,390

Reitberger discloses a guide rail which is closer to the guide section claimed by the applicant. While it shows a toothed strip so located in a recess 9 and having a toothed-like profile 11, however, as acknowledged by the Examiner it does disclose a receiving groove with opposite sides being inwardly undercut. Why would a person skilled in the art provide an undercut arrangement based on Hoffman which fails to teach the undercut arrangement as set forth in claim 1 as amended? The undercut arrangement in Hoffmann is not shown or disclosed; it appears to be assumed. Why would a person skilled in the art refer to a format control system for line printers as a basis for suggesting the applicant’s guide section when the reference fails to disclose the undercut arrangement?

The Maffeis and Hess references fail to add anything to Reitberger and Hoffman which would suggest the undercut arrangement as set forth in the applicant's claims.

Therefore, in view of the amendments to the applicant's claims and the lack of any disclosure or suggestion in the references cited it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable and a favorable action is solicited.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

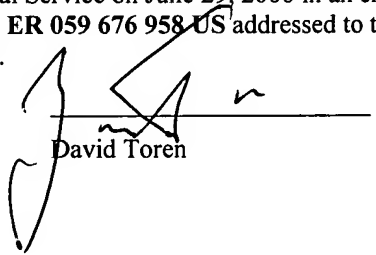

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